**Purpose:**

During many incidents affecting the public’s health, pharmacies can play a critical role in effective response. This memorandum of understanding (MOU) provides a framework for timely, effective pharmacy response to public health incidents. Pharmacies can:

* Distribute and dispense vaccine during communicable disease outbreaks,
* Dispense antibiotics for treatment or prevention of illness during outbreaks,
* Assess and meet needs for medication among those displaced by storms or other incidents, and
* Expand healthcare capacity in a public health emergency by managing therapy for specific conditions under a state-issued treatment protocol (ORS 431A.015).

The MOU helps pharmacies and public health plan effective interventions and work together to meet the needs of the community.

**Background:**

* Patterned after a similar agreement in Washington State; its signatories include multiple public health agencies and representatives of over 200 pharmacies
* Oregon document developed by representatives of Oregon State Pharmacy Association, Oregon Society of Health System Pharmacists, Conference of Local Health Officials, Oregon Board of Pharmacy, and Oregon Public Health Division, with broader input from public health and pharmacy communities.

**What the MOU does and does not do**

Does: Does not:

**\*** Help standardize response \* Require participation

 across communities by signatories; this is not a contract.

**\*** Provide structure to simplify

 pharmacy-public health

 collaboration

**To take part in the MOU**

* Pharmacies and public health develop and agree on a response plan, as outlined in the MOU, available at: [www.oregonpharmacy.org/assets/Newsletters/oregon%20%20pharmacy%20-%20public%20health%20mou%20final\_7%202%2015.pdf](http://www.oregonpharmacy.org/assets/Newsletters/oregon%20%20pharmacy%20-%20public%20health%20mou%20final_7%202%2015.pdf)
* Responding pharmacies and public health then stay in touch, adjusting response plan, if needed, based on the evolving situation.

**Talking Points and Strategies for Engaging Local Pharmacies in Signatory Companies**

* Local Health Department understands that pharmacy has signed MOU at corporate level (Currently Albertsons, Bi Mart, Costco, Fred Meyer, Rite Aid, and Safeway)
* Appreciate pharmacy’s willingness to work with public health to meet public’s needs during a public health incident
* Just wanted to introduce self (if haven’t met previously), and mention this new development and opportunity
* Share attached fact sheet
* If asked for examples of when this might be used:
	+ Pharmacists helped assess and support needs for medicine of people displaced by hurricanes Matthew, Sandy, and Katrina
	+ Several times in Oregon, pharmacies have been key responders in vaccinating people during community outbreaks of meningococcus, such as during the recent University of Oregon outbreak
* Stress that working with pharmacies has been valuable to public health in a number of settings, then ask about pharmacist’s willingness to work with public health in emergency response
* Reiterate what the MOU does and does not do – does provide structure and help standardize response, does not require participation but rather supports collaboration
* Consider sharing contact information with pharmacist
* If you get any questions you want help answering, contact Jennifer Graham (jennifer.graham@state.or.us, 971-673-0574) or Richard Leman (971-673-1089) at OPHD